



FIRELINE

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WASHINGTON FIRE COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

APRIL 2005

New Information to be Provided at Early Health Care Workshops

By Pete Spiller, WFCA Health Care Manager

Although we are still dealing with the requirements of HIPAA, the WFCA health care program is planning a Bellevue workshop on Tuesday, June 7 and a Spokane workshop on Tuesday, June 14 to announce rates for 2006 and NEW health care programs.

Usually the IRSRA Committee is unable to promulgate rates for the following year until early October, but this year second half results are not being used (this may cause minor financial impacts to the program but reserves and plans will not be affected).

...the Committee and Board have consistently followed the path of providing the best programs available at competitive costs on an exclusive basis to member fire districts.

The cost of health care and in particular, the utilization and cost of prescription drugs, continues to be a major impact on fire district budgets. In the March 21, 2005 issue of *U.S. News & World Report*, it is reported that companies are regularly reducing the benefits of health care programs and increasing the employees' participation in the cost of health care as well as increasing deductibles and copays.

Recent reports from General Motors anticipate a 25%-plus cut in employees in the immediate future because of its impacting cost of employees' health care (GM states that approximately \$1500 of the price of each of their automobiles is attributed to health care costs).

The Washington Fire Commissioners Association has concentrated its efforts in the health care crisis to best benefit participating fire districts. Although several cities have requested inclusion in our program the Committee and Board have consistently followed the path of providing the best programs available at competitive costs on an exclusive basis to member fire districts.

Please mark your calendars for June 7 and June 14 as the program and information will be helpful to your district in its negotiations and budget deliberations. Workshop information and registration forms will be sent in the near future. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 1.800.491.9322.

Wildland Fire Prevention

Now is the time to think about wildland fire prevention around your home.

With the unusually mild and dry winter season, it's time to start creating a defensible space around your home if you're living in a potential wildland fire area. Many people, especially those with recreational property, historically don't take the time to prepare their investment for a wildland fire.

"We are experiencing brush fires relatively early in the season, and are concerned about the possibility of increased wildland fires for the summer," stated State Patrol Chief John Batiste.

The Department of Natural Resources is estimating that the Northwest is about six-eight weeks ahead of schedule for the normal beginning of increasing spring fire danger.

See Prevention on Page Five

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A Message from the President *by Richard Kistler*



I had the great pleasure of attending the NAFO Board meeting on Saturday, March 19 in Olympia.

What I saw and heard there convinced me that, even though NAFO is a fledgling organization, it is a worthwhile endeavor, and will prove to be an extremely valuable resource.

The meeting itself was an enlightening give and take, with all participants' input welcomed and considered. Ronny Coleman served as our facilitator and did a fantastic job of keeping us on track, without injecting his personal views or trying to change our perspective.

As most of you know, NAFO is an organization designed to speak for the elected officials of fire agencies and its bylaws have been carefully crafted to prevent one state or organization from becoming the dominant force driving decisions and goals.

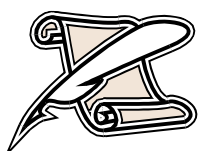
I encourage you to support NAFO by joining and becoming an actively involved member of this urgently needed national organization.

Its vision statement is... "to speak with a unified voice for all elected fire officials for the purpose of influencing policies, regulations, and legislation relating to the fire service" and will

become, with your support, a "forward-thinking, national organization which will distribute information and provide education and representation to elected fire officials."

Some of the accomplishments of NAFO include: 1) incorporation, 2) clarification of membership categories, 3) held the first annual meeting and have planned the second, 4) held regular board meetings, and 5) begun a concerted membership drive. We anticipate doubling our membership by the end of 2005.

In short, I encourage you to support NAFO by joining and becoming an actively involved member of this urgently needed national organization.



Proposed Bylaws Changes Due By May 15, 2005

Now is the time to submit proposed amendments to the **WFCA Articles of Association and Bylaws** to be considered by the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee.

The deadline for submitting proposed amendments is May 15, 2005. Send proposals to:

WFCA
P.O. Box 134
Olympia, WA 98507

Fax: 360.664.0415 / Email: wfca@wfca.wa.gov

If you would like a copy of the current bylaws for review, visit www.wfca.wa.gov (click "About WFCA", then click "WFCA Constitution & Bylaws" located in the left-hand column) to download a PDF copy. If you prefer, call the WFCA office at 1.800.491.9322 to request a copy.

ON THE WEB...

The WFCA website lists many training opportunities for fire service personnel. Log onto www.wfca.wa.gov and click the "Register On Line" button, or click "Calendar of Events" for more information.

Education Survey

The WFCA Education Committee would like your input concerning the class schedule for annual conference in October. Please take a few minutes to complete this survey in order to help the committee offer classes that YOU want presented at conference.

1. What is your position in the district?
☐ Comm ☐ Chief ☐ Sec
2. What is the number one issue facing the fire service today?
3. During the past 3 years, have you attended WFCA... Conference? ☐ Yes ☐ No
 Saturday Seminar? ☐ Yes ☐ No
 If not, why?
4. Please check **three** areas that you believe are most important:
☐ (Writing) Ballot Titles
☐ Budgets
☐ Conflict Resolution
☐ Ethics for Elected Officials
☐ Fair Labor Standards Act
☐ Goal Setting
☐ Hiring an Administrator
☐ Labor Relations
☐ Open Public Meetings
☐ Policies & Procedures
☐ Risk Management
☐ Roundtable with Issue Pre-determined
☐ Sexual Harassment
☐ Strategic Planning
☐ Stress Management
☐ Volunteer Recruitment
☐ Other:

Please return completed survey to:

Mail:

WFCA

P.O. Box 134

Olympia, WA 98507



OR

Fax: 360.664.0415



What is the Washington State Fire Services Mobilization Plan?

The following is a press release from the Office of the State Fire Marshal

During the summer months you will see on the television, hear on the radio, and read in the newspapers that a wildland fire is burning somewhere in the state and the Washington State Fire Services Mobilization Plan has been activated. Just what is this plan?

In 1992, in the wake of the October 1991 Spokane "Firestorm," the Washington State Legislature directed the creation of the Washington State Fire Services Mobilization Plan. The State Fire Defense Board was formed with representatives from the nine regions across the state. The first formal adoption and approval of the plan was completed in July 1994.

The 2001 wildland fire season was one of the most complex in Washington State history. A record 13 separate mobilization requests were approved—most of them involving multiple fires and all of them involving multiple state and federal agencies. At one point mobilization resources were assigned to eight different state mobilization incidents working simultaneously.

In the past few years, integrated Incident Management Teams (IMTs) have been refined, from seven teams to five working teams. The Washington State IMTs are comprised of members from three separate entities: the Department of Natural Resources, the state's fire service jurisdictions and the five wildland firefighting agencies (Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service and National Parks Service).

Declaring a State Mobilization requires the following process:

1. When all local and mutual aid resources have been expended, the Fire Chief of the jurisdiction where the incident is occurring makes a request for Mobilization through the Emergency Management Division (EMD) Duty Officer.

2. The Duty Officer forwards the request to the Emergency Mobilization Section who reviews the request.

3. The request is then forwarded to the Chief of the Washington State Patrol for approval. If the Mobilization request is approved, staff from the State Fire Marshal's Office is mobilized to provide support in locating and tracking resources that will be responding to the incident.

4. The Chief of the Washington State Patrol will notify the Governor's Office and Office of Financial Management of the Mobilization.

Once a mobilization is declared and signed by the Chief of the State Patrol, the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) becomes operational and staffed by the State Fire Marshal's Office. Additional staff is assigned to the incident to operate as a liaison between the incident and the EOC. Additional field duties include cost tracking and processing. These fire resources can come from any of the nine fire defense regions in the state.

The Washington State Fire Marshal's office is a bureau of the Washington State Patrol. A Deputy State Fire Marshal is dispatched to the scene and works with the local Incident Commander to ensure a smooth transfer of delegated authority. Deputy State Fire Marshals from the Emergency Mobilization Division fill orders for needed resources as they are received.

As soon as the resources are no longer needed, a de-mobilization period starts where firefighters and equipment are sent back to their respective districts. The best defense for the upcoming wildland fire season is to have your home prepared for such an event.

[Editor's Note: Please see the article beginning on page one for some helpful tips to pass on to citizens in your fire district.]

Fire Department Announces Improved Insurance Rating

The following article was submitted by Federal Way Fire Department

Effective April 1, the Federal Way Fire Dept. received an improved Class 2 fire protection rating. For businesses in Federal Way, the new classification means fire insurance rates once available only in major municipalities will now be available in the greater Federal Way area.

"We are extremely proud to have achieved this milestone for our citizens within the Greater Federal Way Community. Our citizens' ongoing support by maintaining our property tax levy rate through passage of our annual ballot measures (lid lifts) has allowed our incredibly dedicated department members to provide a level of service our community

desires and deserves. I am extremely proud of our fire department members and their ongoing efforts for our community," said Fire Chief/Administrator Allen D. Church.

The new lower insurance rating is the result of years of effort by department members, other public agencies such as Lakehaven Utility District (water supply), and citizens who are involved with in the department's planning efforts. The new rating is part of the department's overall goal of providing a quality service to our citizens.

The Washington Survey and Rating Bureau completed the re-rating as part of their normal process. The last time the depart-

ment was evaluated was 1986 when it achieved a Class 3 rating. The Rating Bureau evaluates fire departments on several factors such as staffing levels, fire prevention programs, record keeping, and water supply. Equipment and training are also considered.

Federal Way Fire Department is an independent fire district that provides fire protection services to the city of Federal Way as well as the unincorporated King County area to the east of the city. The department protects about 120,000 people in an area of about 34 square miles.

[Editor's note: The WFCA congratulates Federal Way Fire Department for its accomplishment!]

Ads

FOR SALE by Grays Harbor 16: '84 Ford Aid Unit, \$1500 OBO. Sale "as is where is" w/no warranties expressed/implied. All offers considered w/the right to accept/reject any/all offers when deemed in the best interest of the dist. For more info call District Chief Tim Johnson, 360.289.2827 or mail bid to PO Box 730, Copalis Crossing, WA 98536.

FOR SALE by King 27: '88 Pierce Lance Top Mount Pumper, 6 Man Tilt Cab, 24K mi, 1,700 / 285 hrs, 350 HP Detroit 6V-92T, Allison HT 740-4, 1,500 GPM Waterous, 750 gal tank, Ross Relief Valve, 95 GPM Foam system, front, rear, both sides, large diameter suction inlets, side tray hose wells, hard alum hose bed covers, rear booster reel, inverter, extendapole lights, 10' fold, 14' roof, 24' ext. ladders incl. Exc cond, \$70,000. Contact Chief Chris Connor, 425.222.5841 / fax 425.222.4566 or email cconnor@king27fire.com.

FOR SALE by Pierce 5 (Gig Harbor): '76 Ford F750 Water Tender, 1500 gallons, 200 GPM tailboard pump, gas engine, AT, booster reel. 12,000 mi, good

cond. Sale "as is, where is" w/no warranties expressed/implied. Asking \$5,000.00 OBO. Contact Asst. Chief Eric Watson, 253.851.3111.

FOR SALE by Snohomish 22: Dist is offering the following surplus items to Fire Districts in need...1 working Life-pack 300 w/batteries & charger; 2 adult & 1 infant CPR practice mannequins; 2 Akron 2.5 combination nozzles; 1 Elkhart 1.5 combination nozzle; 1 orange jump-kit; 1 metal collapsible spineboard; 1- O2 cylinder w/case & regulator; 1- 6" NST to 5" Storz chrome adapter; 1 used Opticom emitter; 1- 4.5" NST to 5" Storz adapter; 1-3" pipe thread to 4.5" NST chrome adapter; 1 cast-iron SCBA bottle refill station.

The district also has available for sale the following items: 1 Federal signal red light-bar; 1 ambulance gurney.

If interested please contact Chief Travis Hots, 360.659.6400 for more information.

FOR SALE by Cashmere Fire Dept: '75 LaFrance Telesquirt 50' ladder truck, Detroit 8V71, 5-speed, 1200 GPM pump. Contact Jeff Gomes at 509.669.5333.

WANTED by Bruce Eggleston, former WFCA President: Mr. Eggleston lives in a small, private community located near the 49th Parallel ski area in Chewelah, WA. His homeowners' assoc is looking for up to 500' of 2" fire hose, a nozzle or two & a spare hydrant wrench. If your district has any of these items to donate, please contact Bruce at 509.935.6666 & he will pick them up. Thank you.

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT by Grays Harbor 2 (Aberdeen): Chief. Sal \$54-\$60,000. Min 10 yrs fire svc exp w/at lst 3 as Co Ofcr lvl/higher; fire sci degree or bus/pub admin; or equiv comb exper & trng providing req knowledge, skills & abil. EMS certif @ EMT lvl/higher. Exper leading vol or comb dept. Req outstanding commun, labor rel, mgmt, budgeting & writing skills; proven record of positive leadership & bldg effective relationships w/others. Advanced ed & trng (i.e., EFO program from Nat'l Fire Academy). Submit cover ltr, resume & salary req by 4/29/05 to the dist @ 6317 Olympic Hwy, Aberdeen, WA 98520. ATTN: Fire Chief Recruitment. 360.532.6050.



On the Agenda

Mark your calendars now for two very important events:

FRI. & SAT., SEPTEMBER 23-24

NAFO Conference—The Orleans Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada. Tentative program: Welcome event on the 23rd; business meeting and classes on the 24th. For room reservations, call the Orleans at 1.800.675.3267 (M-F, 7 a.m. - 11 p.m. or S-S, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. PST) and mention you are with NAFO to receive the \$119 group rate.

THU.- SAT., OCTOBER 20-22

WFCA Annual Conference—Spokane Red Lion Hotel. For room reservations, call the hotel at 1.800.733.5466.

Complete details and registration forms for these events will be mailed this summer.

Wage Information Sought

The WFCA is in the process of updating its wage data for 2005. The material contained in the final printout will provide revised wage information for both paid and volunteer fire districts.

In odd-numbered years, the WFCA updates both wage and benefit data; in even-numbered years, only wage information is updated.

Please contact the WFCA office if your district is interested in participating and did not receive a questionnaire. NOTE: Your district must participate in order to receive survey results which will be available (by request) in June.

Prevention From Page One

The Office of the State Fire Marshal offers these tips on how to prepare your home for the upcoming fire season:

- Remove dead or overhanging branches. During windy conditions, flames and sparks could travel from trees to the roof of your home.
- Remove leaf accumulation from your yard. Leaf accumulation provides fuel for a wildland fire.
- Remove leaf clutter from your roof and gutters. During a wildland fire, leaves on the roof or in the gutters could be ignited by flying embers.
- Remove tall dry grasses. Tall dry grasses provide a path for fire that can lead directly to a house.
- Prune tree limbs so the lowest is between six and ten feet from the ground. Fire burning through tall dry grass could ignite these limbs and climb to the top of a tree.
- Check your generator to be sure it is in good repair. Refuel garden equipment carefully and away from dry flammable grasses.
- Prune bushes and shrubs regularly. Remove excess growth as well as dead leaves and branches to decrease their flammability.
- Have a well-irrigated and clear area which encircles the structure for at least 30 feet on all sides, providing space for fire suppression equipment in the event of an emergency.

Last year in Washington State there were five wildland fires that required State Mobilization (see article on page three). The Washington State Fire Mobilization Act is requested by local fire departments when all resources have been exhausted and there is an immediate threat to life or property. The fires that received state fire mobilization assistance were:

- Beebe Fire—this human-caused fire burned 4,205 acres in Douglas County.
- Elk Heights Fire—this fire burned 358 acres and destroyed two residences and one outbuilding. The arson-caused fire, at one point, threatened as many as 200 residences and structures in Kittitas County.
- Mill Canyon Fire—this fire threatened as many as 25 residences and several thousand acres of wheat. The fire burned 1,100 acres in Lincoln County.
- Mud Lake Fire—this Yakima County fire threatened approximately 45 homes and burned 4,000 acres.
- Fischer Fire—this human-caused fire burned more than 11,000 acres in Chelan County. As many as 455 residences were in the fire's evacuation zone which destroyed one home, damaged another along with an outbuilding.

For more information, you can access the State Fire Marshal's Office at www.wsp.wa.gov or Firewise Communities at www.firewise.org.



WASHINGTON FIRE COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

Attend a 2005 WFCA
Saturday Seminar at one of
the following locations:

- Ocean Shores—4/30
- Chelan—6/4

2005 SATURDAY SEMINAR SERIES

The Washington Fire Commissioners Association is pleased to offer members the 2005 Saturday Seminar Series. Programs will be presented in Ocean Shores and Chelan, as outlined below.

OCEAN SHORES WORKSHOP—APRIL 30

The morning program, *How to Conduct a Successful Public Meeting*, will be taught by WFCA Parliamentarian and Jefferson 3 Commissioner William Hansen. Mr. Hansen's informative and entertaining workshop will help commissioners develop strategies to conduct productive, legal meetings. Information to be covered includes levels of authority, the principles of parliamentary procedure and identifying the necessary steps to take when making or amending a motion. Proper agenda format will be reviewed, in addition to discussion on the duties of fire district personnel when holding a meeting.

The afternoon session will feature representatives of the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) who will outline your responsibilities as elected officials. Topics will include, *The Do's & Don'ts of Public Facilities' Use*, outlining the newly revised guidelines for public facility usage when providing information on ballot issues (such as lid lifts, statewide initiatives and referendums); additionally, a *Review of Elected Officials' Reporting Requirements* will cover filing personal financial affairs statements and campaign finance forms.

CHELAN WORKSHOP—JUNE 4

In this era of property tax initiatives which limit district revenue, as well as public demand for more services, the WFCA will present a session on *How to be More Efficient in Managing Your Fire District Resources*. This morning program will be presented by a panel of fire service administrative experts who will offer insights on how to be innovative and creative in getting the "best bang for your buck" in such areas as budgeting, multi-jurisdictional bidding and purchasing of equipment, greater use of state contracts and review of surplus property programs, just to name a few!

The second portion of the morning program, *Health Care and Your Fire District*, will feature some material planned for the upcoming administrators' workshops (scheduled for June 7 & 14). Additionally, information on new health care plans and a presentation on implementing health savings accounts will be provided. IRSRA Committee members will be in attendance for discussions during lunch and after the workshop. Current trends and comparisons in the health care field will also be presented.

SEE REVERSE FOR ADDITIONAL CHELAN SEMINAR TOPICS 

CHELAN SEMINAR AFTERNOON SESSION

The afternoon program in Chelan will be highlighted by a presentation from State Fire Marshal Samuel Pierre and other Fire Protection Bureau (FPB) agency leaders, who will provide participants with an overview on issues such as fire mobilization for 2005, fire inspections and an update on what's new at the state Fire Training Academy. This session will include an opportunity to ask questions of Fire Marshal Pierre and his staff about the FPB and what its vision is for the future. Additionally, Fire Protection Policy Board Chair Sharon Colby will present information on the duties and accomplishments of the Policy Board.

SEMINAR DATES & LOCATIONS

April 30—Quinault Beach Resort in Ocean Shores. The facility is located at 78 State Route 115, Ocean Shores, WA 98569. The hotel telephone numbers are toll-free 888.461.2214 (reservations) or 360.289.9466 (main line). Room rate is \$105 (single/double). SEMINAR TOPICS: *Conducting Meetings & PDC Presentation.*

June 4—Campbell's Resort. Campbell's is located at 104 W. Woodin Ave., Chelan, WA 98816. The hotel telephone numbers are toll-free 800.553.8225 (for reservations) or 509.682.2177 (main line). Room rates vary depending on the type requested. Other reservation options include: Caravel (800.962.8723), Darnell's (800.967.8149), Cabana Motel (800.799.2332), Best Western (800.468.2781). SEMINAR TOPICS: *Efficiently Managing Fire District Resources, Health Care Program & State Fire Marshal Presentation.*

REGISTRATION FEES & GENERAL INFORMATION

The registration fee for all seminars includes a continental breakfast and lunch.

MEMBER REGISTRATION

\$ 95.00

\$105.00 (at the door)

NON-MEMBER REGISTRATION

\$190.00

\$200.00 (at the door)

- ◆ Late registration, continental breakfast and handout of material will begin at 8 a.m.
- ◆ Classes begin at 9 a.m. and conclude at 3 p.m.
- ◆ Be sure to bring a sweater or jacket to ensure your comfort.
- ◆ Please give 48 hours' notice for registration refunds from the WFCA.

REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete the form at right and return to the WFCA office as indicated. If you have questions concerning the seminars or registration, call the WFCA office at 1.800.491.9322 or email wfca@wfca.wa.gov.

Please indicate the seminar for which you are registering:

☐ Ocean Shores—April 30

☐ Chelan—June 4

_____ County FPD No. _____

Name & Title (as to appear on name badge)

Name & Title (as to appear on name badge)

Name & Title (as to appear on name badge)

Name & Title (as to appear on name badge)

☐ Amount Enclosed \$ _____

☐ Bill the District

Mail to: WFCA, P. O. Box 134, Olympia, WA 98507 OR Fax to: 360.664.0415

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605 11TH AVE. S.E., SUITE 205, OLYMPIA

OFFICE HOURS

8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M., MONDAY - FRIDAY

THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THIS PUBLICATION ARE NOT NECESSARILY
THOSE OF THE WFCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND/OR MEMBERSHIP.

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